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## How To Guide:

### How big is my region's manufacturing sector compared to other counties in my state?

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The employment size of a given sector or industry can provide some indication of the importance of that sector to a county or how that county compares to the rest of the state. For community colleges, this information can provide some indication of the potential demand for different kinds of programs or allow that college to justify efforts to support those industries with training programs. The primary source for this kind of industry employment data is the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, or QCEW. The QCEW draws on data from the Unemployment Insurance program to provide information about job counts and wages within a given industry.

1. Go to [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)
2. Click on the subjects tab at the top of the page.
3. Under the section labeled EMPLOYMENT, click on State & County Employment.
4. This will bring you to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (or, QCEW) website ([www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew)). Look for the link to the NEW "QCEW Data Viewer", and click on that link.
5. In this example, we are going to find 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter manufacturing employment by county for the State of South Carolina.
  - a. From the menu of the left of the page, begin by selecting "All counties in a state, one industry"
  - b. Once the menu on the right has loaded, select your state (South Carolina), time period (2014, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter), and Ownership type (Private).
  - c. Then from the industry menu, select Manufacturing. By scrolling further down the menu you can select more detailed industry data by their NAICS (pronounced Nakes) code. In this example, we will stay with the broader sector of manufacturing.
  - d. Once you have made these selections, select GET TABLE.
6. A table will appear in a new tab. This table will contain several columns of data by county, state and US Total. You can use the arrows at the top of the column to sort the data in an ascending or descending order. In this example, if we sort December Employment in descending order we will find that Greenville and Spartanburg counties both had over 25,000 manufacturing jobs in December 2014 making them South Carolina's two largest manufacturing counties.



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